

ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



Q&A 2009-020

Published: 11 February 2009

Situation:

Boat B is required to give boat A mark-room and gives mark-room.
Boat A is rounding the mark on her proper course.

Thereby boat A sails a collision course with a third boat C, that is not required to give A mark-room, and boat A breaks a rule of Section A or rule 15 or 16.

Question:

Is A exonerated by rule 18.5(b)?

Answer

The answer to your question would depend on the relationship between the 3 boats in the situation indicated above, including where each of them are in relation to the mark, their course to it and or away from it and their obligations to each other leading up to the collision.

It could be that rule 18.5(b) may apply in one or more circumstances but to answer your question as posed above with either a Yes or a No would not always be correct in all circumstances and could be misleading to you and to others reading the Q&A. For example, rule 64.1(c) might be applicable rather than rule 18.5(b) if A was compelled by C to break a rule, and in other circumstances ~~or~~ A may even be penalised.

The Q&A Panel would therefore appreciate it if you could supply some further information, including a diagram if possible, of the situation as you see it that has caused you to ask this question so the panel can look at it again for you.